

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) ~~A DNA~~ An isolated DNA which codes for a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 80.

46. (Previously Presented) An isolated DNA which comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 79.

47. - 50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) An isolated DNA which is hybridizable with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 79 under a stringent condition, and codes for a protein showing glutamate dehydrogenase activity at 42°C in an equivalent or higher degree compared with the activity at 37°C, and having homology of 90% or more to SEQ ID NO: 80 NO: 80, wherein the stringent condition is 60°C, 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS.

52. (Previously Presented) A method for producing L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a microorganism introduced with a DNA according to Claim 45 in a medium to produce and accumulate L-amino acid in the medium, and collecting the L-amino acid from the medium.

53. (Previously Presented) A method for producing L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a microorganism introduced with a DNA according to Claim 46 in a medium to

produce and accumulate L-amino acid in the medium, and collecting the L-amino acid from the medium.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously Presented) A method for producing L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a microorganism introduced with a DNA according to Claim 51 in a medium to produce and accumulate L-amino acid in the medium, and collecting the L-amino acid from the medium.

56. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 52, wherein the L-amino acid is L-glutamic acid.

57. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 53, wherein the L-amino acid is L-glutamic acid.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 55, wherein the L-amino acid is L-glutamic acid.

60. (New) The method according to Claim 52, wherein said microorganism is a member of the genus *Corynebacterium*.

61. (New) The method according to Claim 60, wherein said microorganism is *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

62. (New) The method according to Claim 53, wherein said microorganism is a member of the genus *Corynebacterium*.

63. (New) The method according to Claim 62, wherein said microorganism is *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

64. (New) The method according to Claim 55, wherein said microorganism is a member of the genus *Corynebacterium*.

65. (New) The method according to Claim 64, wherein said microorganism is *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.